

REMARKS

These remarks are responsive to the Office Action of December 8, 2006. Claims 37-43 and 45 are pending in this application. Claim 37 has been amended. Reconsideration and allowance of the instant application are respectfully requested. Each of the Examiner's rejections is addressed below.

Section 103

Claims 37-43 and 45-46 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 3,196,299 to Kott ("Kott") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,553,604 to Braun ("Braun"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The combination of Kott and Braun fails to disclose or make obvious a toothbrush having a plurality of channels extending **completely and transversely** across a surface of a cleaning head from which cleaning/treating elements extend and separating a support structure from one of an adjacent support structure, a free end of the cleaning head, or the first end of the cleaning head, as required by independent claim 37.

Neither Kott nor Braun has the required channels extending completely and transversely across a cleaning head. The surface of the head of Kott from which its cleaning/treating elements extend is completely planar. In Braun, apertures 25 merely surround the base of elements 16. They clearly do not extend completely across the surface of head 12.

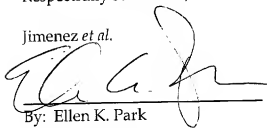
Accordingly, the rejection is improper and should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

Pending claims 37-43, 45, and 46 are believed to be in form for allowance, and an indication to that effect is respectfully requested at this time. If any fees are required or if an overpayment is made, the Commissioner is authorized to debit or credit our Deposit Account No. 03-2455.

Respectfully submitted,

Jimenez *et al.*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. K. Park', written over a horizontal line.

Date: **February 1, 2007**
GC/dlh

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